

those who are with him. Such qualities exhibited in the exercise of overwhelming power are most salutary. Negotiate, treat—with whom and where? . . . Dictation must now become the order of the day. If possible, let there be no more destruction of life, no taking possession of empire; but henceforth, as in other countries let direct access be had to, and intercourse maintained with, the emperor and his court; and let the foreigner enjoy the same protection and the same immunities here, and be held responsible in the same manner, as is usual among the most favored nations. Such an achievement, good as it may be to the foreigner, will be as life from the dead to the Chinese—it will wake them from the long slumber of ages and put them at once, in a day, on the great march of modern improvement. Let the son of heaven know that he is not above the other potentates of the earth. By the course pursued, notwithstanding any errors that may have been committed, the expedition had gained high vantage ground; and though small numerically, and late in action, it has given a blow that will shake the empire to its centre. Its commanding attitude, however, must be maintained unwaveringly, till every just right be gained; and until the ratification of new arrangements, for permanent peace, shall have been signed at Peking.

The naval force at present is thus distributed: Wellesley, at the Bogue; Blenheim; in Macao Roads; Druid, at Hongkong; Calliope, Blonde, Conway, Sulphur, Nimrod, and Columbine, at Whampoa; Alligator, Pylades, and Cruiser, at Howqua's fort, six miles east of Canton; Herald, Hyacinth, Modeste, and Algerine, in Macao Passage, two miles south from Canton; Starling, Young Hebe, and Louisa, passing to and fro; the Atalanta with the advanced squadron; the Nemesis, at Macao. The Melville sailed for England on the 26th, the Samarang on the 29th, and the Madagascar for Calcutta on the 30th inst.

The foreign factories were approached and occupied by British arms on the 18th—just two years from the date of Lin's notable edict demanding the surrender of opium.

Chusan was evacuated by the British troops, on the 24th ultimo. Some particulars respecting it, and the captivity of Mrs. Noble and others, intended for this article, must be postponed.

SHIPWRECKED JAPANESE—The American brig Argyle Captain F. Codman, which arrived from South America on the 19th instant, brought three Japanese sailors who had been rescued from a wreck in the North Pacific (June 9th, 1840.) in lat. 34° N., long. 170° 30' E., more than 2500 miles from their home. They were bound to Yedo, and, driven beyond their port by a westerly gale, had been drifting about for 181 days when found; the vessel was a single masted boat, loaded with a cargo of 400 peculs of rice. They are from the village of Okinosu in the principality of Tootomi, lying about 100 miles SW. from Yedo. Their names are Akahori Shentaro, aged 37, the captain of the vessel; Kamiyama Matsunoski, aged 50, who has left a family at home; and Asayama Tatsuzoi, aged 28. They were much pleased to find some of their countrymen in China. From them we learn that in many parts of the empire, especially among the eastern principalities of Nippon, severe famines have been experienced for three or four years past, so that the poor had died by the roadside of starvation; some of the princes had prohibited the exportation of all provisions out of their own dominions. The cargo of this vessel was designed for one of the princes of Tootomi then at Yedo. They represent the country as generally at peace internally. Much praise is due to Captain Codman for the kindness he has shown to

these men since they were rescued, and the hope is not a groundless one that they may still be returned to their native land.

UNITED STATES.

It would appear that a bad spirit existed on the north-west border. A British officer, named M'Leod, had, it is said, been arrested and imprisoned at Lockport; that a demand for his release had been made by the British Minister upon the American Government, but that the Executive had refused to deliver him up. A public meeting had been held at Buffalo respecting the burning of the steamer Caroline, and a series of highly inflammatory resolutions had been passed. Mackenzie and several other refugees were, it is added, on the spot to take advantage of the prevalent excitement.

On the 9th Dec. Mr. Van Buren's Message to the second session of the twenty-sixth Congress of the United States was communicated. It is a plan, sensible document, alike creditable to himself and the country—distinguished for the presence of common sense, and the absence of excitement and passion—and a congratulation at being in peace and harmony with all the world. With respect to the dispute with this country, Mr. Van Buren anticipates a speedy and amicable settlement of the Maine boundary question. From the character of the points still in difference, he observes, "and the undoubted disposition of both parties to bring the matter to an early conclusion, I look with entire confidence to a prompt and satisfactory termination of the negotiation."

Nothing in Mr. Van Buren's administration becomes him better than the declaration with which he takes leave of it. The concluding denunciation of the African slave trade will impart an interest to this message which nothing else that it contains would be likely to secure for it at this side of the Atlantic.

The suppression of the African slave trade has received the continued attention of the government. The brig Dolphin and schooner Grampus have been employed during the last season on the coast of Africa for the purpose of preventing such portions of that trade as was said to be prosecuted under the American flag.

From the reports of the commanding officers, it appears that the trade is now principally carried on under Portuguese colours; and they express the opinion that the apprehension of their presence on the slave coast has, in a great degree arrested the prostitution of the American flag to this inhuman purpose. It is hoped that, by continuing to maintain this force in that quarter, and by the exertions of the officers in command, much will be done to put a stop to whatever portion of this traffic may have been carried on under the American flag, and to prevent its use in a trade which, while it violates the laws, is equally an outrage on the right of others and the feelings of humanity.

The efforts of the several governments who are anxiously seeking to suppress this traffic must, however, be directed against the facilities afforded by what are now recognised as legitimate commercial pursuits, before that object can be fully accomplished. Supplies of provisions, water-casks, merchandise, and articles connected with the prosecution of the slave trade, are, it is understood, freely carried by vessels of different nations to the slave factories; and the effects of the factors are transported openly from one slave station to another, without interruption or punishment by either of the nations to which they belong, engaged in the commerce of the region. I submit to your judgment, whether this government, having been the first to prohibit, by adequate penalties, the slave trade—the first to declare it piracy—should not be the first also to forbid to its citizens all trade with the slave factor-

ies on the coast of Africa; giving an example to all nations in this respect, which, if fairly followed, cannot fail to produce the most effective results in breaking up those dens of iniquity."

Mr. Van Buren's message is an elaborate defence of the monetary policy of the last four years, and is apparently intended as a record of his principles upon the subject of a "national debt," and a "national bank." He came into office "the declared enemy of both," and while he remained in office "he endeavoured to prevent a resort to either."

The census of the United States was nearly completed. The population would reach, if it did not exceed 17,000,000.

The new, or Harrison administration, was, at last accounted nearly formed, Mr. Webster would take the Department of state, Mr. Crittenden the Attorney-Generalship, General Ewing the Postmaster-Generalship, and Mr. Granger the Navy Department—Eng. Paper.

COMMUNICATED.

MR EDITOR—If any thing were wanting to confirm me in the opinions I advanced in No. 6 of your paper, the article in your last over the signature of "Shakings," would of itself be amply sufficient. I asserted the most peaceable of all doctrines—the manual right to the use of one's limbs, and which my opponent has most sinisterly interpreted. My modesty led me to adopt the signature of "No Shakes," as most expressive of my subject and importance. Could I have foreseen such a "Shaking," I should have substituted some more bellicose cognomen for him to (w)ring out his ire upon. I cannot help admiring the consistency with which he handles the topic. After heaping upon me handful after handful of abuse, for not coming out over my true name, he swaggers and blusters in direful indignation because a gentlemen won't shake hands with him, and threatens "fisticuffs" in retaliation. His valor must suddenly have oozed out at his fingers' ends, or been but skin deep; for, instead as one would suppose of giving his own name in characters as bold as his threats, he disguises himself under what no doubt his conscience told him he deserved—"Shakings." Quakings would have been more appropriate to his corporeal condition at the time of penning the paragraph. Another such squib, and I could faint cry out, that my punishment was greater than I could bear. So violent a fellow should be handcuffed at once; such handicraft as he preaches would create more ups and downs in this community than we could handily bear, though it may have been handed down to him from a long line of big-listed ancestors, whose palmy valor doubtless pomelled its way through every obstacle. His reasoning is quite as weak a hit as his blows. Man, he says, is the only handshaking animal, because he is the only one that has a hand to shake—consequently it being a custom peculiar to our race it should be cherished. With equal propriety we might say, Man is the only animal that gets drunk; now getting drunk being the glorious privilege of our race, let us all get drunk as often as we may. Poor beasts, how are ye to be pitied! "Shakings," with commendable prudence seems to have passed over the whole family of monkeys, all of which have hands and shake them too. Perhaps he is a believer in Lord Monboddos theory, or what is more probable, a long armed ape in disguise himself, that by much sitting has rubbed off his tail, though his claws show still.

In one point, I agree with him; he looks upon the practice of shaking hands as one of the dearest privileges of the human race. It is so indeed. I know of none that draws out an "Oh! dear!" with a more heartfelt emphasis—particularly under the pump-handle application. The custom he considers time-honored. That of touching noses is equally so, besides being affecting and expressive.

It brings the features into close contact, and attracts their owners by the holiest sympathies, and certainly in a climate like this, where catarrhs are rare, unless one of the parties should have the impoliteness to sneeze at the very junction of the nasal extremities, a far more affectionate and cordial greeting. Besides one has an opportunity to smuggle in a kiss, should the friend be a fair one.

But I am wasting more words upon my friend of great snakes than he deserves. The subject is now before the world; to be or not to be—shook—ay! there's the rub—let none flinch from the question, but hand in hand cling to the glorious principle of hands off—until even Shakings himself in anguish of repentance will cry aloud—

"No Shakes" (for me)

THE POLYNESIAN.

Honolulu, Saturday, July 31, 1841.

By the politeness of Capt. Gilman we have been furnished with Canton papers up to the time the Joseph Peabody sailed, from which and the China Repository, sent us by its attentive editor, we glean the following summary of news since our previous dates.

After the capture of Chusan 300 men fell victims to disease, and more than 1600 were confined in the hospitals. In Oct. 1840, Keshen was appointed to supersede Lin, by the Emperor, as high commissioner, to settle all differences. On the 6th of Nov. a truce was signed. On the 29th, Rear Admiral C. Elliot, Commander-in-Chief of H. B. M. forces in the Chinese Sea, resigned the command on account of illness, to Commodore J. G. Bremer. During the negotiation, the English occupied themselves in taking surveys of the Chusan Archipelago. By the shipwreck of the Kite, Mrs. Noble, wife of the commander, and several of the officers and seamen fell into the hands of the Chinese, and were at first treated with much barbarity, but were delivered up on the 12th of Dec. Mr. Stanton was released by Keshen, and sent on board H. B. M.'s Ship Wellesley. On the 7th of Jan. the positions of Chuenpe and Tywiktow were taken with a loss of 20 wounded only on the part of the assailants. Of the Chinese 500 were killed, and 16 war junks destroyed. Hongkong was ceded to the English, and a provincial government established. Chuenpe restored to the Chinese. Chusan was evacuated. On the 20th Jan. 1851, C. Elliot, H. B. M. Plenipotentiary in China gave notice that the following terms were agreed to on the part of both parties—1st. The cession of the island and harbor of Hongkong to the British Crown. An indemnity of six millions of dollars to the British government. Direct official intercourse between the countries upon equal footing. The trade of the port of Canton to be opened in ten days after the Chinese New Year. The articles were agreed to on the part of the Emperor by his Minister Keshen, who appears to have formed a just estimate of the power of the English, and to have been sincerely desirous of peace. In February the negotiations were broken off, and the forts at the Bogue captured on the 26th, after a short but brilliant action, and the fortifications, with the exception of those in Wangtung levelled. On the 27th, a Chinese force of 2000, strongly entrenched on the left bank of the river and defended by 100 pieces of artillery, were routed with great loss. March 3rd, the advanced squadron, consisting of the Herald, Alligator, Sulphur and Modeste anchored off Howqua's fort. Sir Hugh Gough, Major General and Commander-in-Chief of the land forces arrived on the 2nd. On the 15th, the fort in the Macao passage near Canton was captured and garrisoned. The iron steamer Nemesis in all the operations on the river, proved of the greatest service, by clearing obstructions to the navigation, &c. On the